

Senate Resolution 590

By: Senator Jackson of the 2nd

A RESOLUTION

1 Encouraging the representation of diverse populations of different racial and ethnic
2 backgrounds in clinical research; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, developing new medicines and other treatment options is a complex process
4 that involves clinical trials to explore whether a medical strategy, treatment, or device is safe
5 and effective for humans; and

6 WHEREAS, volunteer participation is necessary to evaluate potential therapies for safety and
7 effectiveness in clinical studies; and

8 WHEREAS, often the enrolled patient population is not representative of United States
9 demographics or subpopulations impacted by the particular disease; and

10 WHEREAS, groups such as African Americans and Hispanics are significantly
11 underrepresented in clinical trials; according to the Food and Drug Administration, African
12 Americans represent 12 percent of the United States population but only 5 percent of clinical
13 trial participants, and Hispanics comprise 16 percent of the population but only 1 percent of
14 clinical trial participants; and

15 WHEREAS, despite a congressional mandate that research financed by the National
16 Institutes of Health (NIH) include minorities, non-whites comprise fewer than 5 percent of
17 participants in NIH-supported studies; and

18 WHEREAS, certain medical conditions have been known to affect particular demographic
19 groups more than others, including Type 2 diabetes for which African Americans and
20 Hispanics are twice as likely to be diagnosed on average; and

21 WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, sickle cell trait is
22 common among African Americans and occurs in about one in 12, and sickle cell disease

23 occurs in about one out of every 500 African American births, compared to about one out of
24 every 36,000 Hispanic American births; and

25 WHEREAS, race and ethnicity have also been demonstrated to affect the efficacy of and
26 response to certain drugs, such as antihypertensive therapies in the treatment of hypertension
27 in African Americans and antidepressants in Hispanics; and

28 WHEREAS, many barriers exist that account for the low rate of participation among diverse
29 communities, including patient fear of experimentation and lack of understanding or
30 education with regard to the importance of clinical trials in creating new treatments and
31 cures.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
33 encourage the representation of diverse populations of different racial and ethnic
34 backgrounds in clinical research and the dedication of additional community resources to
35 increase awareness on the importance of participating in clinical trials, to provide support for
36 patient participation, and to promote effective partnerships with the community to achieve
37 solutions.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
39 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the President of the
40 United States, the Vice President of the United States, the Georgia delegation to the United
41 States Congress, and other federal and state government officials as appropriate.